

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS SWAGENSEIL:MDK

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P 241944Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 201549 TOSEC 100120

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MORNING, SUNDAY,
AUGUST 24.

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)

NO. 13

PAPERS: (ONLY WASHPOST AND NYTIMES AVAILABLE)

WASHPOST: BERGER SAYS THAT HAK "APPEARS CONVINCED THAT
THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OF WINDING UP NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW
SINAI AGREEMENT WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK." TRAVELING PRESS
TOLD HE BELTEVES AGREEMENT IS IN SIGHT AND WILL BE COMPLETED
BEFORE RETURN TO UNGA.

HAK WENT TO SYRIA WITH MESSAGE THAT SINAI ACCORD IS NOT
FINAL STEP AND US STANDS READY TO HELP SYRIA AND ISRAEL IN
NEW TALKS. SYRIA UNHAPPY ABOUT SINAI ACCORD, BUT ASSAD
CANNOT STAND IN WAY OF AGREEMENT. NO DATE SET FOR GOLAN
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT INITIAL SOUNDINGS MIGHT BE MADE THROUGH
AMBASSADORS, BEFORE HAK BECOMES INVOLVED PERSONALLY. OR,
SUCH TALKS COULD BEGIN IN RESUMED GENEVA CONFERENCE.

ON SINAI PACT, REPORTERS GIVEN A NOTE OF CAUTION: HAK
DOES NOT EXPECT FAILURE, BUT IF IT COMES, IT WILL BE
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RESULT OF POINTS DISCUSSED "RATHER LATE IN THE TALKS."

EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY AGREEMENT WILL ONLY BE FOR ONE YEAR; ISRAELIS SAY UNLIMITED DURATION. ISRAELI PRESENCE IN WARNING STATIONS ALSO DISPUTED BY EGYPTIANS. "IN THE VIEW OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS, SADAT WILL NOT TELL HIS PEOPLE HE IS MAKING CONCESSIONS BEFORE HE IS SURE THERE WILL BE AN AGREEMENT. OTHERWISE, HE WILL HAVE TO PAY TWICE FOR MAKING THE CONCESSIONS AND FOR FAILING TO GET AN AGREEMENT. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAY WHATEVER COMMITMENTS SADAT MAKES 'ILL BE CLEARLY SPELLED OUT." OFFICIALS DENIED HAK CARRIED LETTER FROM FORD TO ISRAELIS WITH COMMITMENT TO SELL HIGH-TECHNOLOGY ITEMS, NOR ANY OTHER KIND OF LETTER. "HOWEVER, KISSINGER MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT IN WASHINGTON THAT THE QUESTION OF MILITARY SUPPLIES WOULD BE ANSWERED IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO THE ISRAELIS, MEANING THAT ITEMS HELD UP DURING THE REASSESSMENT OF M.E. POLICY WOULD BEGIN TO FLOW. REPORTS OF NEW MILITARY SUPPLIES, REPORTERS WERE TOLD, HAD ELEMENTS OF TRUTH, BUT ALSO ELEMENTS OF FANCY AND ELEMENTS OF CONJECTURE. DURING THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, KISSINGER HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO AGREE TO ANY PARTICULAR NUMBERS OF WEAPONS TO BE DELIVERED."

NYTIMES: GWERTZMAN SAYS HAK TOLD ASSAD "THAT ISRAEL WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE A MODEST ACCORD WITH HIS COUNTRY FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROJECTED SINAI AGREEMENT ..." FLYING FROM DAMASCUS, NEWSMEN TOLD THAT ASSAD "WAS NOT UNRECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF NEW TALKS WITH ISRAEL, BUT HE MADE NO COMMITMENT." HAK TOLD ASSAD THAT US WAS READY TO MEDIATE, INCLUDING HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, BUT SUCH TALKS SEEM MONTHS AWAY. PRESIDENT FORD REPORTEDLY SENT AT LEAST ONE LETTER TO ASSAD PLEDGING US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. ISRAEL UNEAGER TO NEGOTIATE WITH SYRIA, NEEDED US PRODDING. GOLAN FELT TO BE MORE IMPORTANT TO ISRAELI SECURITY, AND COSMETIC MOVES MIGHT NOT SATISFY ASSAD. HAK ATTACHES MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO NEW GOLAN ACCORD BECAUSE OF SYRIAN INFLUENCE WITH RADICAL ELEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD; AMERICANS REGARD ASSAD AS MODERATE WITH STRONG TIES TO PALESTINIANS. REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT PROGRESS TOWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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NARROWING THE GAP BEING MADE AND PACE WAS AS EXPECTED; HAK BELIEVES HE CAN FINISH NEGOTIATIONS IN TIME FOR UNGA SPEECH SEPTEMBER 2. IF DETAILS STILL LEFT, HE WILL RETURN TO ME FROM NEW YORK.

WIRES: MORNING STORTES REPORT HAK DECISION TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL AN EXTRA DAY, TO CONSULT WITH NEGOTIATORS AFTER CABINET MEETING. PLANS ARE TO FLY TO ALEXANDRIA

ON MONDAY. NO MAJOR NEWS.

REUTERS: NELSON HAS URGENT NIGHTLEAD CITING ISRAELI AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT EGYPT HAS PLEDGED IT WILL NOT JOIN IN ATTACK IF ANOTHER ARAB NATION STARTS NEW ME WAR. IF ISRAEL WAS THE AGGRESSOR, OFFICIALS SAID, EGYPT WOULD BE FREE TO JOIN THE FRAY. "IF ANOTHER WAR ERUPTED THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE A DISPUTE OVER WHO STARTED IT...HAK WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS THAT THE PROMISE WOULD KEEP EGYPT OUT OF THE FIRST DAYS OF WAR. ISRAEL WOULD THUS BE ABLE TO DEVOTE ITS FULL ENERGIES TO REPULSING SYRIA OR OTHER ARAB FORCES, HE SAID."

EGYPT WOULD BE LEGALLY COMMITTED TO STAND ASIDE IF OTHER ARAB STATES WENT TO WAR, BUT COMMITMENT WAS NOT AS SPECIFIC AS ISRAEL WOULD WISH, OFFICIALS SAID.

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED, CABINET MET, HAK WAITED.

JERUSALEM POST PUBLISHED PURPORTED DETAILS OF SINAI AGREEMENT: IN ADDITION TO WITHDRAWALS FROM PASSES AND OILFIELDS, DETAILS INCLUDE "US PLEDGE NOT TO PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO A DEAL WITH SYRIA; AN EGYPTIAN UNDERTAKING TO PERMIT ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL IN NON-ISRAELI SHIPS; SYMMETRICAL EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LISTENING POSTS IN THE SINAI...US OFFICIALS SAID SOME OF THE JERUSALEM POST UNDERSTANDINGS WERE WISHFUL, BUT THEY CONFIRMED THAT THE GENERAL SUBSTANCE WAS CORRECT."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE201549
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0201
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750822/aaaaatdp.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, MORNING, SUNDAY, AUGUST 24.
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, PFOR, US, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006